

Message Text

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PAGE 01 KINGST 03860 132115Z

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ACTION ARA-10

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FM AMEMBASSY KINGSTON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 2358

USIA WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY NASSAU PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY PORT

AMEMBASSY PORT

C O N F I D E N T I A L KINGSTON 3860

USIA FOR ILA

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PINS, PINR, JM, US, UR

SUBJECT: AGEE GETS EXTENSIVE COVERAGE ON CIA ALLEGATIONS

1. PHILIP AGEE HAS HAD THREE VERY ACTIVE DAYS SINCE HE BEGAN HIS ROUND OF ADDRESSES AND INTERVIEWS ON SEPTEMBER 10. HE HAS APPEARED TWICE ON TELEVISION TALK SHOWS, HE HAS TWICE BEEN INTERVIEWED ON RADIO AND HAS GIVEN AT LEAST ONE PUBLIC ADDRESS AND WAS SCHEDULED TO GIVE A SECOND. (WE HAVE NO CONFIRMATION THAT IT WAS HELD BUT ASSUME IT WAS.)

2. AGEE HAS FOCUSED ON THE "DESTABILIZATION" THEME, PROVIDING CONSCIOUS SUPPORT TO THE "EVIDENCE" WHICH MANY JAMAICANS ASSERT CONSTANTLY AS DEMONSTRATING THE INTENTION OF THE UNITED STATES TO INJURE THEIR COUNTRY. IN HIS INITIAL SPEECH, AGEE REPORTEDLY SAID -- AND SUBSEQUENTLY REITERATED -- THAT HE
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PAGE 02 KINGST 03860 132115Z

DETECTED THREE MAIN "TRENDS WHICH FITTED NEATLY INTO

THE CIA GENERAL PLANS TO DESTABILIZE COUNTRIES AND CREATE A FAVORABLE CLIMATE FOR MULTINATIONAL FIRMS TO CONTINUE THE EXPLOITATION..." FIRST HAS BEEN A CAMPAIGN OF PRESS VILIFICATION, INTENDED IN JAMAICA'S CASE TO FRIGHTEN TOURISTS AWAY AND THUS DAMAGE THE COUNTRY'S BALANCE-OF-PAYMENTS POSITION. SECOND HAS BEEN THE DEPARTMENT'S DESIGNATION OF KINGSTON AS A "HARDSHIP" POST, A FURTHER EFFORT TO FRIGHTEN PROSPECTIVE VISITORS. THE LAST HAD BEEN A DETERMINATION BY THE EXPORT-IMPORT BANK TO REDUCE JAMAICA'S CREDIT RATING FROM "A" TO "C", THUS MAKING IT FAR MORE DIFFICULT TO OBTAIN THE CREDIT MADE MORE NECESSARY AS THE BOP POSITION WORSENEDED. AGEE'S DELINEATION OF THESE THREE TRENDS OFFERS APPARENT CONFIRMATION OF THE ALLEGATIONS BY SOME JAMAICANS, AND HIS OWN PAST ENHANCES THE CREDIBILITY OF HIS CHARGES.

3. IF AGEE HAS BEEN OFFERING AID AND COMFORT TO THOSE JAMAICANS WHO CLAIM THAT THE UNITED STATES IS SEEKING TO "DESTABILIZE" JAMAICA, HE HAS BEEN QUITE PREPARED TO PLACE A NUMBER OF OTHERS -- BOTH JAMAICANS AND AMERICANS -- AT HAZARD AS HE PURSUES THESE CHARGES. IN HIS INTERVIEWS, AGEE HAS ASSERTED THAT CIA DOES NOT RELY SOLELY ON PERSONS HAVING DIPLOMATIC COVER BUT UTILIZES THE SERVICES OF A VARIETY OF OTHERS. AMONG THE AMERICANS WHO MUST BE VIEWED WITH SUSPICION HE HAS LUMPED RETIRED PERSONS, BUSINESSMAN (PARTICULARLY THOSE EMPLOYED BY MULTINATIONALS), NEWSPAPERMEN, STUDENTS, AND TOURISTS. WHEN ASKED WHETHER PEACE CORPS VOLUNTEERS WERE EVER USED, HE REFUSED TO DENY THE POSSIBILITY, LEAVING HIS AUDIENCE TO DRAW WHATEVER CONCLUSION THEY WISHED.

4. AGEE'S EFFORTS TO AROUSE SUSPICIONS REGARDING JAMAICANS ARE ESSENTIALLY TWO-FOLD. HE MADE MUCH OF LOCAL JOURNALISTS AND EDITORS WHO ALLOWED THEMSELVES TO BE USED BY THE CIA AS IT SOUGHT TO DIRECT OPINION. HE ALSO SPENT AN ENTIRE INTERVIEW, CONDUCTED BY TWO CHURCHMEN, OLIVER DALY AND NATELAND

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PAGE 03 KINGST 03860 132115Z

(PHONETIC) EVANS, DESCRIBING THE EFFORTS OF THE CIA TO SUBVERT THE CLERGY AND LAYMEN; HE OFFERED DRAMATIC EXAMPLES FROM ECUADOR WHERE RELIGIOUS SENTIMENT HAD BEEN MANIPULATED. THE ATTACKS ON CHURCHMEN ALSO SEEM LIKELY TO BRING A NUMBER OF AMERICAN MISSIONARIES UNDER SUSPICION.

5. WHILE WE MUST ASSUME THAT AGEE'S PURPOSE --

AND THAT OF HIS SPONSORS ABROAD -- IS TO WEAKEN
AMERICAN PRESTIGE HERE IN JAMAICA, THE FORMER CIA
EMPLOYEE'S PERFORMANCE ALSO STRIKES US AS BEING
SO SINGULARLY HELPFUL TO THE RULING PNP'S CAMPAIGN FOR SEATS
IN THE FORTHCOMING PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS THAT COINCIDENCE IS
RULED OUT. GOJ CONTROLLED RADIO AND TELEVISION HAVE BEEN
USED TO GIVE AGEE AND HIS ALLEGATIONS EXTENSIVE
PUBLICITY. AND THIS CAMPAIGN GIVES FRESH "EVI-
DENCE" OF AN EXTERNAL ENEMY WHICH WISHES TO HALT
JAMAICA'S IMPLEMENTATION OF "DEMOCRATIC SOCIAL-
ISM." PERHAPS THE MOST DRAMATIC PART OF AGEE'S
CAMPAIGN HAS BEEN THE ATTACK ON CHRISTIAN ELE-
MENTS, CLEARLY ONE OF THE GROUPS MOST LIKELY TO
CAUSE PROBLEMS FOR THE "PROGRESSIVE" PNP.

6. MORE AND PERHAPS WORST TO COME TOMORROW,
SEPTEMBER 14, WHEN HE ADDRESSES THE JAMAICAN
PRESS ASSOCIATION.
GERARD

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